
SECRETARY OF STATE



Dear California Voter:

It has been a pleasure to serve as your Secretary of State for the last eight years. Working together with leading policy makers and California's hard-working nonpartisan professional election administrators and especially you, the voter, I am proud to say we will leave a legacy of election reforms that have positively affected the democracy in our state.

Since the November 2000 presidential controversy in Florida, a spotlight has been placed on the conduct and administration of elections across the country. Fortunately for Californians, we looked ahead for the changes that needed to be made and our united efforts have turned California into a model for all other states to emulate.

In fact, recent federal election reform legislation requires other states to carry out many of the critically important procedures we pioneered in California as a prerequisite to their obtaining federal funds for election modernization.

Whether it's the publication of this detailed voter information guide, which helps you make informed decisions, or the development of America's premier on-line campaign finance tracking system or the nation's most extensive and respected voter outreach efforts, you can be proud that California is blazing the trail for other states to follow.

To ensure the integrity of the elections process, we re-tooled the voting infrastructure to make sure that voters who have died or moved away no longer remain on the voter rolls and implemented a top-notch election fraud investigation unit so that individuals who violate election laws will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Our innovative use of technology, like California's computerized statewide voter file and the live, up-to-the-minute reporting of election results on the Internet, provides us with invaluable tools that continue to improve the way we administer elections. And the recent adoption of Proposition 41, the Voting Modernization Bond Act, will help us move closer toward helping counties replace their outdated voting systems with newer, more modern technology for you to use when you cast your ballot.

It has been an honor to work side by side with the dedicated men and women of the Secretary of State's Office to build a better elections system for all Californians. Californians will never have to question the integrity of the democratic process, which so many Americans have sacrificed their lives for during the history of our great nation.

We hope you will respect their sacrifice and honor their memory and support our country by casting a ballot on November 5, 2002.

